

Day one of the County Juvenile Track and Field Championships saw a strong turnout with many of the track events, even at the older age groups, needing heats. This is the start of a busy period with schools athletes faced with provincial qualifiers, provincial championships and, hopefully, national championships in the weeks ahead.

Philippe Barnet of Tralee Harriers had a clear win in the U18 boys javelin with 37.13m while Jonathon Foley of Farranfore Maine Valley landed the U17s Javelin to 37.26m. Orla O'Reilly of Tralee Harriers led the U11 Girls Long Jump from start to finish with 3.49m but not without opposition - Sophie Lynch of Listowel was only 1cm behind. In the U14 Boys discus Adam King showed Iveragh can take medals in the field as well as on the road, winning with 30.26m from Shea McDonald of Estuary in second with 28.68m. The ever impressive Clarence Kennedy of St. Brendan's AC set a new personal best of 6.20m in the U19 boys Long Jump while in the U17s event Eoin O'Carroll added a gold with 5.96m to the ones he won in the U16 100m. St. Brendan's took all three medals in the U19 boys 100m with Edward O'Carroll finishing well for first while Clarence Kennedy just edged out Dylan Roche for second. Jack O'Suilleabhain took gold in the U18 boys 3000m in his debut race for Farranfore Maine Valley and Niamh Clifford of Star of the Laune held off Katie Rogers of St. Brendan's in the U18 Girls 3000m. Gneeveguilla gave a strong showing in the U14 Girls 80m with Evie Casey in first and Rebecca Daly finishing third, the pair divided by Rio Barron of Estuary in second.

This of course is only a small selection of the many fine performances given on Sunday and many more will follow next week as both Gneeveguilla and Tralee Harriers seek to unseat St. Brendan's and take the cup for best overall juvenile club.

Clare Fitzgerald has continued her run of strong performances in Manhattan even though slightly held back by a wrist injury which has left her unable to take part in weight lifting sessions. Midweek she threw just short of her personal best in the javelin at the MAAC Outdoor Championships in New Jersey with 40.88m and when this pb comes it will bring with it a new Manhattan College record. The competition continued over the weekend with the Manhattan Jaspers seeking to defend both their men's and women's conference team titles and injury or not the college wanted all of its top athletes out for points. Winning the discus with a throw of 43.80m Clare's wrist injury began to tell with a silver medal at 12.40m in the shot, well short of the usual 13m she would surpass. With an 11th women's title in 13 years and Manhattan coach Dan Mecca placated Clare will hopefully be taking some time out of the shot to recover fully before challenging her personal best again.